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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/933,600	08/21/2001	Kimihiko Kazui	FUJH 18.931	6848
26304	7590	11/17/2004	EXAMINER	
KATTEN MUCHIN ZAVIS ROSENMAN 575 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10022-2585			BURGESS, BARBARA N	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2157	

DATE MAILED: 11/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/933,600

Applicant(s)

KAZUI ET AL.

Examiner

Barbara N Burgess

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walters et al. (hereinafter "Walters", US Patent Pub 2001/0052019 A1) in view of Henderson et al. (hereinafter "Henderson", US Patent No. 6,185,603 B1).

As per claim 1, Walters discloses a multimedia electronic mail system comprising :

- a multimedia data server for storing a multimedia data to transmit according to a request (paragraphs [0014-0015, 0024]) ;
- a sending client having a mailer, which registers said multimedia data to said multimedia data server and indicates the identifiers of said multimedia data to a plurality of clients using an electronic mail (paragraphs [0013, 0024, 0028-0029]);
- a plurality of receiving clients each having a mailer for receiving said electronic mail transmitted from said sending client, for obtaining said multimedia data stored in said multimedia data server through a network (paragraphs [0025, 0029]);
- wherein said multimedia data server includes retention period information on said multimedia data, and reference client information consisting of identifiers of entire receiving clients which may possibly refer to said multimedia data (paragraph [0031]).

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Walters does not explicitly disclose controlling and deleting said multimedia data according to said retention period information and said reference client information.

However, in an analogous art, Henderson discloses the server waiting for a period of time before deleting the message (column 6, lines 15-23, column 7, lines 42-45, 60-62).

Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to control and delete data in Walters in to get rid of useless messages.

As per claim 2, Walters discloses the multimedia electronic mail system according to claim 1.

Walters does not explicitly disclose wherein said multimedia data stored in said multimedia data server is deleted when either the number of receiving clients having a possibility of referring to said multimedia data becomes zero or the preset retention period of said multimedia data has expired.

However, in an analogous art, Henderson discloses the server waiting for a period of time before deleting the message (column 6, lines 15-23, column 7, lines 42-45, 60-62).

Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to control and delete data in Walters in to get rid of useless messages.

As per claim 3, Walters discloses the multimedia electronic mail system according to claim 2 wherein, when said sending client transmits an electronic mail

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containing the multimedia data identifier to said plurality of receiving clients, said mailer in the sending client indicates to said multimedia data server both said multimedia data identifier and the identifiers of said plurality of receiving clients (paragraphs [0013, 0024, 0028-0029, 0031].

As per claim 4, Walters discloses the multimedia electronic mail system according to claim 2, further comprising a mail relay server for relaying an electronic mail transmitted from a sending client wherein, when relaying said electronic mail, said mail relay server analyzes the received electronic mail contents to obtain said multimedia data identifier and the identifiers of said plurality of receiving clients to indicate to said multimedia data server (paragraphs [0015, 0025—0026, 0029-0030]).

As per claim 5, The multimedia electronic mail system according to claim 2 wherein said each plurality of receiving clients analyzes the contents of the received electronic mail to obtain said multimedia data identifier to indicate to said multimedia data server together with said receiving client identifiers (paragraph [0025]).

As per claim 6, Walters discloses the multimedia electronic mail system according to claim 3.

Walter does not explicitly disclose wherein when a user in said each receiving client determines the received mail being unwanted any longer and desires to delete, said

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receiving client indicates to said multimedia data server that said multimedia data corresponding to the identifier contained in the received electronic mail is no longer unwanted, and said multimedia data server updates the reference client information corresponding to said multimedia data based on said indication received from said received client.

However, in an analogous art, Henderson discloses the server waiting for a period of time before deleting the message (column 6, lines 15-23, column 7, lines 42-45, 60-62).

Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to control and delete data in Walters in to get rid of useless messages.

As per claims 7-8, Walters discloses the multimedia electronic mail system either of claims 1.

Walters does not explicitly disclose wherein said electronic mail transmitted from according to said sending client contains a retention period of said multimedia data, said receiving client is provided with a means to confirm, on receipt of said electronic mail, the users therein whether or not said retention period is to be extended before the retention period expires, when a request to extend said retention period is issued by a user, said request is transferred with said multimedia data identifier to said multimedia data servers and said multimedia data server, upon receiving said request from said receiving client, updates the retention period information of said multimedia data corresponding to said received multimedia data identifier.

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However, in an analogous art, Henderson discloses the server waiting for a period of time before deleting the message (column 6, lines 15-23, column 7, lines 42-45, 60-62).

Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to control and delete data in Walters in to get rid of useless messages.

As per claim 9, Walters discloses the multimedia electronic mail system according to claim 8.

Walters does not explicitly disclose wherein said multimedia data server indicates to said sending client the information on a receiving client having issued no indication whether the multimedia data concerned is unwanted any longer nor a request for extending the retention period, in spite of having received an electronic mail from said sending client.

However, in an analogous art, Henderson discloses the server waiting for a period of time before deleting the message (column 6, lines 15-23, column 7, lines 42-45, 60-62).

Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to control and delete data in Walters in to get rid of useless messages.

3. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walters et al. (hereinafter "Walters", US Patent Pub 2001/0052019 A1) in view of Henderson et

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al. (hereinafter "Henderson", US Patent No. 6,185,603 B1) and in further view of Hickey et al. (hereinafter "Hickey", US Patent Publication 2002/0087646 A1).

As per claim 10, Walters discloses the multimedia electronic mail according to claim 9.

Walters does not explicitly disclose wherein said multimedia data server manages a password for each multimedia data to transfer to the sending client, said sending client, when transmitting a multimedia electronic mail, transmits said password as well, said receiving clients when obtaining said multimedia data from said multimedia data server, transmits said password and the receiving client identifier to said multimedia data server, and said multimedia data server compares said password and said receiving client identifier received from said receiving client with the corresponding data stored in said management information storage equipment, and permits said receiving client to acquire said multimedia data only in case the comparison result coincided.

However, in an analogous art, Hickey discloses the user providing the mail server with identification such as user login and password (paragraph [0042]).

Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to implement or incorporate the data server managing a password in Walters in order for the user to retrieve stored electronic communications.

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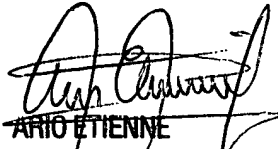
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Barbara N Burgess whose telephone number is (571) 272-3996. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00am-4:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571) 272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Barbara N Burgess
Examiner
Art Unit 2157


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